

ENTERING
THE
PASSION
OF JESUS
LENT 2025

A photograph of a church interior at night. A large, glowing cross is the central focus, set against a brick wall. Two stained glass windows flank the cross, each depicting a religious scene. In the foreground, the silhouettes of people are visible, suggesting a service or prayer. The lighting is dramatic, with the cross and windows providing the primary light source.

The Last Supper

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "The Palms" – Jean Baptiste Faure/arr. Lani Smith

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
3 As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - ereign - ty hold sway.

The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,

our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to worship our God, our Christ, our Spirit
The one who enters the city on a humble donkey.
We place our coats on the road.
We celebrate with branches and palms.
We gather at the table.
Where Christ is both host and servant.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Shout, Sing, Celebrate!" – by Joel Raney

Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers
Children's Choir,

SCRIPTURE Mark 14:17-26 (N.T. pg. 48)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (N.T. pg. 163)

Kimberly Gallagher, Liturgist

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Stacie Yates

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "The Last Supper"

Dr. Greg Carey

HYMN "Ah, Holy Jesus"

WORDS: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Bridges (1844-1930), alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger (1598-1662)

HERZLIEBSTER JESU
11.11.11.5.

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed,
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you?
3 For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion,
4 There - fore, dear Je - sus, since I can - not pay you,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Ah, Holy Jesus". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff, with four numbered lines of text corresponding to the four measures of the melody. The lyrics are: "1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed, 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you? 3 For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion, 4 There - fore, dear Je - sus, since I can - not pay you,".

that mor-tal judg-ment has on you de - scend-ed? By foes de -
 It is my trea - son, Lord, that has un - done you. 'Twas I, Lord
 your mor-tal sor - row, and your life's ob - la - tion, your death of
 I do a - dore you, and will ev - er pray you, think on your

rid - ed, by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.
 an - guish and your bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 pit - y and your love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

UCC Medina
 @uccmedina



venmo

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. You can also give through VENMO. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offering Invitation

We know the power of a meal among loved ones.

We know the challenge of living in love.

Be present in our offerings of time, talent, and treasure.

Take what you need, oh God, and multiply them

as Christ multiplied the loaves and the fish.

***Doxology** (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;

Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Give Thanks** (From AJ Levine, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A beginners guide to Holy Week. Leader Guide*, page 54.)

Christ, you meet us in the midst of our many journeys

And you call us to risk opening our lives to you and to our neighbors.

We break bread with one another and share your desire to be one body.

We receive what you have to give,

And go forth to give of ourselves.

With gracious hearts and in your name. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"My Song is Love Unknown"

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE 6.6.6.8.8.8.
John D. Edwards, c. 1840

Samuel Crossman, 1664; alt.

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 God left the rich - est throne sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they threw down palms and sweet - est prais - es sang.
 4 What has my Sov - ereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
 5 I sing my plain be - lief, one song my heart out - pours:

Love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 But Christ as flesh and bone the world re - fused to know.
 Ho - san - nas and glad psalms through streets and mar - kets rang.
 Christ gave new strength to run, re - stored the gift of sight.
 Nev - er was pain nor grief, nev - er was love like yours.

O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
 But, O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need did
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, for blood and death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and
 This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
 life ex - pend; who at my need did life ex - pend.
 thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst Christ rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst Christ rise.
 glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Go in peace, following the One
who loved without limits,
who showed love to the loveless
so that all might know they belong.
Even as shouts of praise turn to cries of rejection,
may you hold fast to the deep, divine love
that walks with us through suffering,
and sets even enemies free.
This is our Friend,
our hope, our song. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

***POSTLUDE "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" - setting by Michael Burkhardt Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Jeff & Diane Welday

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PASTORAL STAFF

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 13, 2025

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

April 13 thru April 20, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun PALM SUNDAY
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Blake Food Donations Due
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting
11:45 am Safety Team Meeting
3:00 pm Confirmation
4:30 pm Guest Speaker: Dr. Greg Carey

Mon 6:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm DELTs Meeting
7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting/Decorate

Thurs MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Fri GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 pm Good Friday Service

Sat

9:00 am Brass Rehearsal
9:00 am Worship Team Decorate

Sun EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 am Sunrise Service @ Spring Grove Cemetery
8:00 am Blake Donation List Posted
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

NO JESUS VIBES ON EASTER SUNDAY

Children will stay upstairs with their families during the service.

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: Mark 14:17-26 and
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Guest Speaker: “The Last Supper”
Dr. Greg Carey

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table today are given by Arnold & Cheri Ingraham in memory of their parents.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY at 7pm in fellowship hall:
A Service of Prayer Stations and Sacrament. This service will not be livestreamed.

GOOD FRIDAY at 7pm in fellowship hall:
A holy time for prayer and reflection This service will also be at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall and will not be livestreamed.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

7:00 am – Sunrise Service at Spring Grove Chapel

8:15 am – UCC Chapel

9:00 am – Fellowship Hall

10:30 am – Sanctuary (Livestreamed)

11:30 am – Easter Egg Hunt

Children should bring their Easter Basket or a bag so they can add a few more eggs to their collection! We will have a quick Easter Egg Hunt in the grass area by the pergola. Hope to see you then!

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

April 13th at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us with our guest speaker, Dr. Greg Carey. He will be speaking about the “Unmasking Power; Revelation and the Forces of Domination”

APRIL MONTHLY DONATION

We will be collecting **laundry detergent** to distribute to Cups Café, Prospect Pantry and other local pantries. Please place your donations for the Mission Team in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table. Thank you for your generosity!

PINWHEEL GARDEN CREW NEEDED

Sunday April 13th will be the annual Pinwheel Walk for the Children's Center of Medina. They've asked for our church's help to maintain the garden of pinwheels that will be planted outside of Medina Library. This is a super easy way for families to volunteer together! Get more info and sign up for a day at the link below or call the children's center. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFA628ABFB6-55787862-2025#/>

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS

The Property and Grounds Team is recruiting new members! We are responsible for ensuring that the church buildings and grounds are properly maintained. We meet once per month and conduct some of our business over email between meetings. The monthly time commitment is minimal, and we ask that members participate on the team for a three-year term. Basic knowledge of buildings and grounds is helpful but not required. If you have the ability to coordinate onsite with vendors during normal business hours, we're especially interested in talking with you! If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to Ryan Bilikam via ryanbilikam@gmail.com or 330-304-0637. We are currently recruiting 2-3 new team members.

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Join us for our next New Member Class! We believe anyone is welcome to gather with us, but there is something special about making a deeper commitment to contribute to what God is doing in and through Medina UCC. The next New Member class will be on **Tuesday, May 6th at 7 pm in the new library**. New members will join the church on Sunday, May 18th at one service of worship at 10:30 a.m.. If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559.

EASTER OFFERING APRIL 20th

This year's Easter Offering will support our Shepherd's Fund, which assists local community members who need a helping hand. Many members of the community come to the Church in need of, food, laundry money, hotel stays and help with their utilities and other bills. The office staff provides a list of local agencies that support their needs and some monetary assistance. Any money collected during our Easter service will build up the Shepherd's Fund so we can continue to help our neighbors.

EASTER BAGS DUE BACK

To those who picked up an Easter Bag last week... they are due back **today, Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday)** to be blessed.

HUGS IN A BOX

All donations are due to the church today, Sunday, April 13th.

If church members would prefer to donate to defray shipping costs, they can do so via the church Venmo: <https://account.venmo.com/u/uccmedina> (last four digits of the church phone number is 4559). Type "Hugs in a Box" in the 'what's this for' box. Thank you! Ellen Nolan & Liz Wolff

ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their Annual Reports to be presented at the May 18th Annual Meeting immediately following **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 am. Also, please inform me as to any changes on your team.** I appreciate all your efforts in getting these to me on time. Due date is April 29th Please email to: office@uccmedina.org

BIBLE SUNDAY - April 27th

Join us on Sunday, April 27th as five very special girls receive their very own Bible. They have worked very hard for this day and are very excited about receiving their Bible. Please join us to help them celebrate this very special day.

NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITY

****Calling All Cooks!**** Help prepare a meal for up to 30 residents at the newly opened *Next Step Up* Emergency Housing Shelter. Our church will provide meals on select dates in the coming months—this is a great opportunity to serve our community and share God’s compassion with our neighbors! For details, contact Maureen Walker or the church office 330-725-4559.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025 June 9-12 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Registration has begun for VBS 2025! The theme is Road Trip – On the Road with God. Road Trip VBS is more than just fun, it’s a journey of faith, friendship, and unforgettable memories. Registration is available online or you may pick up a registration form in the church office. Registration begins Monday, April 6th and ends Friday, May 16th. **PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM PER CHILD...** Registration is not complete until payment is received. You can pick up a registration form from the church office or scan the QR code:



You may drop off your money to the church office or pay through REALM. Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions.

FINANCIAL UPDATE...

Through March 31, 2025, we received \$129,532 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. We spent \$124,604 on our regular church operations, so through March we are in the black by \$4,928, which is consistent with our budget. We have received most of the Covid-era Employee Retention Tax Credits amounting to over \$150,000. Our Finance + Stewardship Team has approved a plan for the allocation and use of these funds, much of which will likely be treated as an unusual income item in the 2025 Operating Fund, thus increasing reserves for future budget years.

If you have any questions about pledging or other church financial matters, you can contact Pete Metzloff via email at pete@uccmedina.org.

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday’s Messenger is this Sunday at 11:30 am

Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm

JUNK DRIVE 2025

A Medina UCC Youth Trip Fundraiser

RECYCLE YOUR OLD, BROKEN, & UNUSED TECH TO SUPPORT OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SUMMER TRIP!

PLEASE READ THE LISTS BELOW CAREFULLY BECAUSE WE EDIT THEM YEARLY
BASED ON WHAT WE CAN RECYCLE TO RAISE FUNDS

We Can Recycle

Cellphones, Tablets, MP3 players and Smart Watches
Laptops, Desktops, and All-In-One Computers
Gaming Consoles and Video Games
Metal Encased Stereo Receivers
Small Metal Appliances
VHS/DVD Players
Cords and Cables



We Cannot Recycle

Printers, Fax Machines, and Plastic Analog Phones
Refrigerators or any items containing refrigerant
Plastic or Wood Encased Radios and Speakers
Thermostats or anything containing Mercury
Vacuum Cleaners and Plastic Appliances
Marine, Deep Cycle, or Car Batteries
Humidifiers or Air Conditioners



Recycling Guidelines

- 1) Please remove your personal data before donating, or let us know if you need help doing so.
- 2) Smart phones and tablets must be unlocked and removed from your personal accounts before donating.
- 3) Please remove disposable batteries (AA/AAA/C/D batteries) from your devices and recycle appropriately.
- 4) We will take CRT/Tube TVs and Monitors for a \$20 donation and LCD Monitors and flat screen TVs up to 55" for \$10. We still want to help you recycle them, but these cost money rather than make it!
- 5) If we can't take your items, you can find an e-waste recycling bin near you at <https://summitecycle.com/bin-locations/>

Drop-Off Schedule and Locations

At Medina United Church of Christ
217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio

TUES. APRIL 8, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 12, 8:30-11:30AM

TUES. APRIL 22, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 26, 8:30-11:30AM

Questions?

Call the church office at 330-725-4559
or email meghan@uccmedina.org



At The Lodi Family Center
301 Mill St. Lodi, OH 44254

SAT. APRIL 12, 4:30-6:30PM

TUES. APRIL 15, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 26, 4:30-6:30PM

We are excited to partner with
the Lodi Family Center
Robotics and Tech Club
who will help us with
disassembling computers
for better recycling!

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, where the passion of our Lord will play out before us, ending in his death on the Good Friday cross. But for now, we gather with that ancient crowd, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (which means "save us!").

On this day, we praise Christ our King who gave new meaning to that title "king." For Jesus wasn't like King Saul who towered in physical strength nor was he like King Solomon who was surrounded by wealth and great wisdom. Jesus was a king who chose the way of servanthood and who rode a humble animal rather than a warhorse. And yet the streets still overflowed with people wanting to welcome this man who had stirred the countryside with his radical message of God's all-encompassing love.

Before riding into Jerusalem, Jesus asked his disciples to get a donkey and a colt. The disciples questioned Jesus if the animals' owner would give them freely. Jesus replied, "Just say the Lord needs them." Sure enough, the disciples didn't run into any hesitation and were able to secure the animals for their friend.

We rarely linger on this detail in the story of Jesus' passion, preferring to focus on the palm-waving fanfare. But let's leave that cheering crowd for a moment and linger, asking ourselves what it is that the Lord needs of us.

Perhaps not a donkey, but a trusting heart? Perhaps not a colt, but our time to help others no matter how stretched our time seems to be?

Can we give drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry and clothing to the naked? Can we give Jesus our commitment to stay by his side when others fall by the wayside? Can we wait in patient faith for resurrection promises amid our dark nights of the soul?

My friends, the truth is that the Lord needs much more than a humble animal to ride on. He needs our hearts.

Come, let us rejoin that Palm Sunday crowd knowing that all too soon those hosannas will fade. Hold on to your palm branch tightly, though. Hold on and listen for all the Jesus is asking of you.

Redeeming God, we are quick to sing Your praises when things go our way, but when life's cheers turn to jeers, we quickly doubt and run from the grace of Your Son Jesus. Help us to be present now and always to our Savior, giving whatever it is He asks of us this day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.